REMARKS

The present application includes claims 1-50. Claims 15-28 were allowed by the Examiner. Claims 3-5, 8, 9, 11, and 12 were objected to by the Examiner. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 13, and 14 were rejected by the Examiner. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended and new claims 29-50 have been added.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 13, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Boer et al., U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0021222 ("Boer"), in view of Moriya et al., U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0012318 ("Moriya").

Claims 3-5, 8, 9, 11, and 12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

The Applicant now turns to the rejection of claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 13, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Boer, in further view of Moriya. Boer teaches an apparatus and method for the establishment and protection of connections within a mesh network. Boer teaches applying network protection techniques used in ring-type networks to mesh-type networks. Specifically, Boer teaches subdividing a large protected network into two smaller protection domains in order reduce the length of time required for the network to switch around a fault.

As shown in Figure 6 and Figure 7B, Boer teaches a first protection domain 100 and a second protection domain 102. All communications passing from the first

protection domain 100 to the second protection domain 102 are routed through a virtual gateway at network element NE G.

That is, in Boer, both the working path and the protection path follow the same connection between networks, namely, through NE G. Specifically, in operation, data traveling on both the working path and the protection path of the first protection domain 100 travels through the virtual gateway created at network element NE G.

Thus, Boer does not teach a plurality of inter-network routes between a first and second network as recited in claim 1. Instead, Boer only teaches a single network route though element NE G.

Additionally, the Examiner states in the Office Action that Boer does not disclose transmitting first and second sets of data to the destination node, as recited in claim 1. The Applicant respectfully agrees.

Moriya teaches a network managing method for a single mesh-type network that dynamically creates, selects, and monitors routes within the single mesh-type network. That is, Moriya only discusses a single network and does not teach an inter-network connection. Specifically, Moriya does not teach a plurality of inter-network routes between a first and second network as recited in claim 1.

Additionally, Moriya teaches transmitting a single set of data as two pieces, rather than transmitting a first and second copy of the same data. Specifically, Moriya discloses transmitting a route table through a link between two nodes 2-i. As illustrated in Figure

12, the link between individual nodes 2-*i* contains main signal channel 51 and sub-channel 52. In operation, data X, which contains route quality information Q, is divided into data x and data y at the sender-side node 2-*i*. Then, data x passes through main signal channel 51 and data y passes through sub-channel 52. Finally, receiver-side node 2-*i* receives data x and data y. Thus, Moriya teaches dividing a data set and sending the two portions of the data along separate channels of a single communication link.

Consequently, Moriya does not teach sending a first and second copy of the same data. That is, in Moriya, data x is not the same as data y. Claim 1 explicitly requires that the second set of data comprises a copy of the first set of data.

Consequently, neither Boer nor Moriya teach sending a first and second copy of the same data as recited in claim 1. Boer does not disclose this, as noted by the Examiner. Moriya only teaches sending two non-identical sets of data.

Additionally, neither Boer nor Moriya teach a plurality of inter-network routes, as recited in claim 1. Boer only teaches the use of a single inter-network route and Moriya is silent with regard to inter-network routes.

Consequently, claim 1 is respectfully submitted to be free of Boer and Moriya and to be allowable. Additionally, claims 2, 6, 7, 10, 13, and 14 depend from independent claim 1 and are consequently also respectfully submitted to be allowable.

The Applicant now turns to the objection to claims 3-5, 8, 9, 11, and 12 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 3-5, 8, 9, 11, and 12 depend from independent claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended as set forth above and is respectfully submitted to be allowable. Consequently, claims 3-5, 8, 9, 11, and 12, depending from claim 1, are also respectfully submitted to be allowable.

The Applicant now turns to the addition of new claims 29-50. New claims 29-50 include independent claims 29, 40, and 50. Independent claims 29, 40, and 50 all recite sending first and second data sets from the source to the destination networks, wherein the second data set is a copy of the first data set. Consequently, claims 29, 40, and 50 are respectfully submitted to be free of Boer and Moriya and to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicant can be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the Applicant at the number below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

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